

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA CLASS SPECIFICATION

Class Title: Landscape Architect

Class Code: 90615

A. Purpose:

Landscape Architects design methods of alteration and restoration of natural resources disrupted by construction projects; and design decorative landscapes for state facilities.

B. Distinguishing Feature:

Landscape Architects develop erosion control plans and design landscapes to enhance, restore, and protect natural resources and the environment.

Draftsmen use computerized and conventional drafting methods to draw plan sheets and right-of-way and property plats, compute quantities, and add notes.

C. Functions:

(These are examples only; any one position may not include all of the listed examples nor do the listed examples include all functions which may be found in positions of this class.)

1. Researches projects to determine appropriate erosion control materials and procedures.
 - a. Reviews soils, rainfall, survey, and drainage data; and other design criteria.
 - b. Reviews right of way and borrow agreements.
 - c. Works with other state and federal agencies involved in projects to ensure compliance with their rules and regulations.
 - d. Reviews aerial photographs, maps, and project sites to survey vegetation and other natural resources.
 - e. Selects seed, fertilizers, mulch, bales, rocks, and other materials and determines rates of application and location.
 - f. Decides which farming and other restorative procedures are most effective for project requirements.
2. Develops project erosion control designs and plan sheets to facilitate implementation of natural resources restoration.
 - a. Draws designs using computer engineering design files and computer aided drafting.
 - b. Compiles quantities of materials and estimates costs.
 - c. Writes plan notes and includes standard sheets to provide directions for implementation.
3. Provides technical expertise to assist the department, public, contractors, and other agencies.
 - a. Reviews erosion control and landscaping plans developed by consultants and local government employees and recommends corrective actions.
 - b. Recommends farming, planting, fertilizing, and drill calibration procedures.
 - c. Recommends seed, mulch, and riprap; and application rates and locations.
 - d. Answers landowners' questions about erosion control.
 - e. Tests new products, procedures, and materials; reports on results; and maintains a products list.
 - f. Maintains an erosion control procedures manual.
 - g. Provides landscaping designs for department facilities and special projects as assigned.
4. Develops and maintains new and standard specifications to ensure use of the latest techniques and consistency in implementation of procedures.

- a. Reviews concepts for erosion control equipment and materials developed at research centers; other states' research and practices; and new product lines.
 - b. Observes and evaluates materials and procedures.
 - c. Requests evaluations from project and area engineers.
5. Performs other work as assigned.

D. Reporting Relationships:

Reports to an Engineering Supervisor. Does not supervise.

E. Challenges and Problems:

Challenged to maintain knowledge of new and changing environmental requirements. This is difficult because of the number and variety of rules. Further challenged to meet deadlines that change with project priority changes.

Problems include last minute changes in project scope, developing erosion control measures that meet other involved agencies' requirements, failure to cover all erosion problems.

F. Decision-making Authority:

Decides erosion control materials and procedures most effective for topography of projects; quantities of materials required; directions for implementation; priority of assigned work; and recommends new products and standards.

Decisions referred include parameters and priority of work; comprehensive list of materials and procedures; final approval of special requests from other agencies or landowners; concerns about areas that need more design consideration; whether or not to test new techniques or materials.

G. Contact with Others:

Occasional contact with design engineers to discuss project-related issues; and with region and area personnel to exchange information on projects.

H. Working Conditions:

Typical office environment.

I. Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

Knowledge of:

- principles and practices of landscape architecture;
- erosion control methods and materials;
- horticulture and soils;
- farming practices and equipment as they relate to soil preparation, seeding, fertilizing;
- computer aided drafting and design.

Ability to:

- prepare plans, specifications, and estimates for landscaping projects;
- use computerized drafting systems.